



# Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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## **Aerial Herbicide to Control Spartina on Camano Island**

OLYMPIA — An aerial application of the herbicide Rodeo is scheduled to begin at dawn Monday on a 65-acre area of Triangle Cove on Camano Island. The spraying will reduce by 80 percent the amount of Spartina growing in the area to be sprayed, according to the state Department of Agriculture.

Spartina is a noxious weed that disrupts native saltwater ecosystems, threatens fish and bird habitat and increases the threat of floods. The weed is native to the East coast of the US and was carried to the Pacific Northwest as packing materials on trains.

"Although we will not spray near any area inhabited by humans, we use Rodeo because it has very low toxicity, it doesn't cause illness and it doesn't accumulate in the environment," said Wendy Sue Bishop, interim statewide Spartina coordinator at Department of Agriculture.

The 1995 Legislature directed Department of Agriculture to serve as the lead agency in developing and coordinating a statewide Spartina control and eradication program. The program uses an integrated weed management approach, that maximizes effectiveness while minimizing negative impacts. To date, about 1,000 acres have been treated.

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Note to editors: A Spartina factsheet is attached. For more information call Wendy Sue Bishop at (360) 902-1853.

Inquiries regarding availability of this publication in alternative formats should be directed to the WSDA Public Information Office 360/902-1813 or Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) 360/902-1996.